

BAYFIELD, WIS., Jan. 15, 1910.

To the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society:

Madison, Wisconsin.

In the last four years the Bayfield Peninsula has made wonderful progress in the fruit industry. Prior to that time there were no commercial orchards or commercial advancement in the small fruit line. Our citizens had made no effort in that direction and had given it no thought, and most of them thought that fruit as a commercial enterprise for this section would be a failure. They were governed too much by the opinion of our neighbors south of us; "too far North" was the cry. Notwithstanding, they themselves had been growing all varieties of small fruit for home use, and some varieties of apples and cherries for thirty years, and their success in this small way never prompted them to try it commercially. A few citizens finally did wake up to this suggestive object lesson and began to set out trees and small fruit and to talk fruit to their fellow citizens. Of course some laughed in your face, some pitied you for the money you were squandering, and some listened to you and talked it over with you inquiringly, and then went home and talked over the truths you had brought to their notice, and finally began to set out trees and small fruit, and were successful in their efforts. This success of some made the others take notice and brought them to realize what had been done, and they began to absorb the fruit venture and began the work of fruit growing themselves, and to-day you can scarcely find a knocker in our district. They have all been taught to believe in the future of this district as a fruit country commercially. We have organized a Horticultural Society of about one hundred members, and through the society, much educational work has been done, and many beginners are on the road to growing fruit for the market. In the last three years our district has put out about twenty-five thousand apple trees, and twenty thousand cherry trees. There were two cars of cherry trees brought to Bayfield this fall, containing 17,000 trees. There were also several thousand apple trees brought in for planting next spring. Men are coming in with the expectation of growing fruit, and are clearing up land for that purpose. We would move forward faster were it not for the fact that our land

is all stump or timber land, and has to be cleared before they can plant trees or small fruit. Cleared land cannot be bought at any price, as about all the cleared land is owned by men who are in the fruit business or expect to engage in it, or have cleared the land for that purpose. There will be over one hundred acres of strawberries to pick this year. Some are setting out blackberries, raspberries, and currants commercially, but these fruits are not in bearing. This year there will be but little of this fruit for sale outside of home markets. All of our small fruit and cherries have been thoroughly tested out and can be no failure in the growing.

As to apples, outside of the Duchess, Yellow Transparent, Wealthy, and Crabs, other varieties (many of them), have been planted, and the trees are growing fine, and in a few years will be tested far enough to know what varieties to grow in our district. A few trees were in bearing this year of the following varieties not before tested: The Patten Greening and Dudley. These trees bore remarkably fine fruit and attracted much attention from the fruit growers. Take it all through, the fruit industry on the Bayfield Peninsula looks very promising.

WM. KNIGHT,
Delegate from Bayfield, Wis.

